

Atty Dkt. No.: 10981620-3
USSN: 09/398,399

REMARKS

Following entry of the above amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all of the remaining rejections and allow Claims 50-52, 55-60, 62-64, 66-67, 71-73 and 76-84, the only claims pending and currently under examination in this application following entry of the above amendments.

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the helpful interview held by telephone on February 4, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner suggested that Claim 68 be canceled and that the wording of the detecting step in the remaining independent claims be clarified to refer to the background feature and probe feature signals which are subtracted in the subsequent steps. The Examiner indicated that if these amendments were made, the case may be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Claim 68 has been canceled and wording of the remaining independent claims has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's above summarized suggestion.

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Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone Bret Field at (650) 833-7770 or Gordon Stewart at (650) 485-2386. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/4/04

By: 

Bret E. Field
Registration No. 37,620